

Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Spaces Goal, Policies, and [Action Measures]

Goals

- Provide a wide variety of high quality park and open spaces for all residents.
- Provide both developed areas with facilities for active recreation and undeveloped areas for nature-oriented recreation.
- Protect and enhance valuable natural resources located within the park and open space system.
- Create a City-wide network of interconnected pedestrian and bicycle trails.
- Develop full-service recreational facilities and establish a comprehensive recreation program; providing a wide range of recreational, cultural, and educational activities; operated by the City or a special recreation district.

Policies

Administration, Planning, Coordination, and Communication:

1. Tigard shall acquire, develop, and maintain a diverse system of parks, trails, open space, and recreational facilities that are safe, functional, and accessible to all segments of its population.
2. The City shall acquire and improve natural areas located within a mile of every Tigard resident to provide passive recreational opportunities.
3. The City shall seek to achieve or exceed the ideal park service level standard of 11.0 acres [of parkland] per thousand population.
3. The City shall develop neighborhood parks [or neighborhood park facilities

within other parks, such as a linear park] located within a half mile of every resident to provide access to active and passive recreation opportunities for residents of all ages.

4. The City shall develop other parks, including linear parks, special use facilities, urban plazas, skate parks, and pet areas, consistent with the descriptions and standards contained in the park system master plan.

~~5.~~ The City shall acquire and manage **some** open spaces to **solely** provide protection of natural resources.~~†and~~

~~6. The City shall acquire and manage~~ **other** open spaces to **additionally** provide nature-oriented outdoor recreation and trail-related activities}

7. The City shall ensure public safety is a major consideration in the planning, design, and management of parks, open spaces and trails.

8. The City shall integrate green* concepts into park and open space design, maintenance, and operations.

9. In addition to standing committees, such as the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and the Tree Board, the City shall involve its residents and businesses as active participants and partners in all aspects of providing park and recreational services, including park system master planning and City comprehensive planning efforts.

10. The City shall ensure that the community at large is adequately informed of recreation opportunities and programs; issues affecting the parks, open space and recreation system; and volunteer opportunities.

Trails

11. The City shall create an interconnected regional and local system of trails and paths that link together neighborhoods, parks, open spaces, major urban activity centers, and regional recreational opportunities.

12. The City shall design and build greenway trails and paths to minimize their

impact on the environment.

Funding

13. The City shall, either directly or in coordination with other stakeholders and agencies, seek opportunities to acquire public open space. **and also to develop**

~~14. The City shall seek public funding to build recreational facilities and operate~~ **provide** a full service recreational program.

15. The City shall build and maintain partnerships with other governmental and private agencies and organizations to optimize funding and facility resources and improve park and recreational opportunities.

16. When considering acquisition of new parkland and open space, the City shall identify funding for required maintenance and public safety activities.

17. The City shall require all development to pay a parks system development charge. **or to dedicate open space in lieu of a park system development charge.**

18. The City shall insure that any land dedicated to the City in lieu of a parks system development charge meets the needs, goals, and objectives identified in the *Comprehensive Plan* and *Parks System Master Plan* and has been evaluated according to the criteria listed in the comprehensive plan policy (#25) governing land donations.

Recreation Program

19. If adequately funded, the City shall establish a recreation program served by high quality community facilities (that may include recreation centers, aquatic facilities, sports fields, and tennis and basketball courts) in various locations throughout the City.

Volunteers

20. The City shall continue to encourage and recognize the important role of

volunteers and community groups in meeting City park, trail, open space, and recreation needs and in building stewardship and promoting community pride.

Maintenance and Operation

21. The City shall maintain and manage its parks and open space resources in ways that preserve, protect, and restore Tigard's natural resources, including rare or state and federally listed species, and provide "nature in the city".

22. The City shall provide funding for a high level of park, open space, and recreational facility maintenance.

23. The City shall work with all elements of the community to provide and manage a fully functional "urban forest."

~~{~~The City shall seek the assistance of volunteer groups and other community partners to help in maintaining parks, trails, and open spaces~~+~~.

24. The City shall continue to improve access to neighborhood parks and other facilities according to the City's Americans with Disabilities Act plan.

25. Acceptance of any land donated for park purposes shall be based upon its usefulness and adaptability to the ~~adopted~~ parks and open space system ~~plan~~. The following shall be taken into consideration when making a decision regarding the acceptance of a proposed property donation.

- a. The property's location within the City's proposed greenway* system;
- b. Its location bordering an existing park or greenway ;
- c. The degree to which the property meets the "site selection criteria" for the facility type corresponding to its intended use as listed in the Park System Master Plan;
- ~~—— [d. The utility of the property for the City's intended purposes;]~~
- h. The occurrence within the property of unique or significant natural or cultural resources.
- e. The condition of the property and the City's liability for any potential problems **or maintenance needs** associated with its condition;

- f. If landlocked, or enclosed within non-city owned land, the right of entry or **public** passage through the non-city owned land;
 - g. The existing owner's awareness and acknowledgement that the control over public access passes to the City and its officers with the donation.
26. City-owned property may be used for private wetlands mitigation. The City will consider proposals for such mitigation on a case by case basis, subject to the following:
- a. It can be demonstrated that there is benefit to the City and the general public;
 - b. The mitigation must provide a documented physical enhancement of existing wetland;
 - c. The City should be compensated for the use of the area either through rent, lump sum payment, benefit to the City, or as agreed to by the City Council;
 - d. The wetland mitigation should demonstrate no additional cost to the City for maintenance or other factors, unless acceptable to the City Council; [Res 96-42]
 - e. Should the City consent to the private use of City-owned property, the applicant shall obtain a City Sensitive land permit and all other necessary permits and approvals for the proposed work. The required joint state/federal wetlands application shall explicitly state that the City is not a party to the permit and enforcement of the permit will be directed solely against the developer.

ACTION MEASURES

Administration, Planning, Coordination, and Communication:

1. Regularly update the Parks System Master Plan (every 5 to 10 years) to ensure it continues to address the changing needs of the City. Update sections of the document more frequently with an amendment or other process to reflect the results of major policy or planning initiatives.

2. Develop master plans for each park that: identify the locations and types of development that will occur in the park, **preserve natural areas**, and ensure development that promotes safe and aesthetically pleasing environments.

[3. Seek to achieve or exceed the ideal park service level standard of 11.0 acres [of parkland] per thousand population.]

3. Consider and respond to Tigard's social and demographic characteristics, including its cultural diversity, when planning for and investing in park improvements.

4. Consider the development of a partnership plan with the school district for the renovation and joint use of school grounds in park deficient areas to meet neighborhood park needs.

5. Coordinate with and support Metro, Oregon State Parks, the National Park Service and other agencies and that provide parks, open spaces, and recreational activities in or near Tigard.

6. Promote a safe environment in the City's parks and open spaces through on-going contact and coordination with public safety officials.

7. Consider the development of a marketing and communication plan to inform the public about the value of parks and the recreational services they provide.

8. As part of Action Measure 7, develop and distribute maps and brochures to educate users about the park and open space system and promote appropriate use.

Trails:

9. Complete a trail system master plan to guide the development of the trail system and facilitate progress toward its completion.

10. Complete a City-wide inventory and prioritization of opportunities for short pathway connections that increase bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and complement the greenway and on-street bicycle/pedestrian systems.
11. Add to the park system master plan map:
 - A. The Tigard portions of two “regionally significant” trails: the Westside Trail (formerly, the Powerline Trail) and the Washington Square Loop Trail.
 - B. The on- and off-street route identified by the SW Trails Group that interconnects the Washington Square Loop Trail with the Portland Urban Trail Number 5, which ends at SW Dickinson and SW 65th.
12. Develop trail standards for the many trail systems, sizes, and materials needed in different settings.
13. Coordinate trail development and maintenance activities with natural resource management objectives and activities.
14. As needed, furnish trails with amenities, such as interpretive and directional signage, benches, drinking fountains, parking and staging areas, and other services.
15. If adequate resources are available, use automated systems to systematically map and document trail easements, right-of-way dedications, proposed alignments, and current trail locations.

Funding:

16. Revise and update the Park System Development Charge (SDC) Methodology to reflect current land and development costs and to consider:
 - A. The development of a dependable, long term funding source or sources that can be used to provide the ~~\$16.8 million, or 63%~~ in overall project costs assigned to non-SDC funding sources in the SDC study’s capital improvement program. (See 17 below.)
 - B. Adjustments to the ~~\$12.5 million of~~ extraterritorial (Urban Growth Area) improvement projects identified in the SDC capital improvement program.
 - C. Adjustments to the SDC fee structure that reflect realistic non-SDC revenue expectations.

17. Consider seeking voter approval, as early as November 2008 and no later than November 2010, to issue general obligation bonds for needed park and open space acquisitions and improvements.
18. When feasible, utilize alternative methods to acquire and develop open space, parks, and trails, including local improvement districts, purchase of easements and development rights, life estates, etc.
19. Work to increase grants and donations from new sources for operating and capital funding.
20. Consider the establishment of a parks foundation to assist with fund raising, and acquisition, and special projects.
21. Explore additional ways to acknowledge and recognize sponsors and donors.
22. Continue to use park reservation fee schedules that provide cost recovery balanced against needed services. Provide services to City residents at lower costs than to non-residents.
23. Continue efforts to involve the public in the allocation of and request for funds.

Recreation Program:

24. Consider seeking voter approval, as early as November 2008, for a local tax levy to build recreational facilities; consisting of recreations centers, aquatic facilities, sports fields, and tennis and basketball courts; and finance a full-scale recreation program

Accessibility:

25. When feasible, make parks, trails, and open spaces universally accessible by as many people as possible.
26. Provide public access to public open space in ways that protect sensitive natural resources.

Volunteers:

27. Continue to seek the assistance of volunteer groups to help in developing and maintaining parks, trails, and open spaces.
28. Create volunteer opportunities and support those who want to participate in making ideas, projects, and events happen in their neighborhood parks.

29. Develop and apply administrative policies and procedures for use of volunteer resources.

Maintenance and Operations:

30. Continue to develop and implement specific management plans and maintenance programs for the **high level maintenance of** ~~for all of~~ the City's park and open space lands.

31. Seek opportunities to introduce more environmentally-friendly, **sustainable science-based** practices, including measures to increase re-use and recycling programs, on-site filtration, integrated pest management, and other Best Management Practices.

-- **Develop and implement an urban forestry program to improve the condition of Tigard's urban forest through effective management decisions.**

32. When feasible and appropriate, include natural resources studies and monitoring in the City's management of public open spaces and related natural resources.

33. Remove and control non-native plants, including noxious weeds, in natural areas, where feasible and appropriate.

34. Identify funding for required maintenance and management activities when considering acquisition of new parkland and open space.

35. Where applicable, take into consideration the costs of public safety services when considering acquisition of new parkland and open space.

36. Inform the public about maintenance and management requirements for the City's various types of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open spaces, as for example by posting maintenance plans on the City webpage.